

09/943,160

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-45 and 46-53 are canceled by way of the present amendment. Claims 54-63 are added.

Claim 54 recites a motorized card reader module comprising a throat portion for receiving cards, a housing portion for containing a card read head, a shutter arm movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion, and a sweeping arm movable from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion. The sweeping arm includes a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a sweeping arm movable from one side of a throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion, wherein the sweeping arm includes a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion. Thus, claim 54 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 55 depends from claim 54 and is allowable for the reasons claim 54 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 55 further recites that the hook portion includes a cutting mechanism for cutting a non-card obstruction in the throat portion. None

09/943,160

of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 55 in combination with the structure recited in claim 54. Thus, claim 55 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 56 depends from claim 55 and is allowable for the reasons claim 55 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 56 further recites a first sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the one side of the throat portion. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 56 in combination with the structure recited in claim 55. Thus, claim 56 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 57 depends from claim 56 and is allowable for the reasons claim 56 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 57 further recites a second sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the opposite side of the throat portion. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 57 in combination with the structure recited in claim 56. Thus, claim 57 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 58 depends from claim 56 and is allowable for the reasons claim 56 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 58 further recites that the first sensor is located to detect if the cutting mechanism is damaged. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 58 in combination with the structure recited in claim 56. Thus, claim 58 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 59 depends from claim 54 and is allowable for the reasons claim 54 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 59 further recites a resilient bias for biasing the hook portion so that the hook portion remains in contact with a card when the hook portion is deflected by the card. None of the prior art including the prior art references

09/943,160

of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 59 in combination with the structure recited in claim 54. Thus, claim 59 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 60 recites a self-service terminal comprising a fascia defining a card entry/exit slot, and a motorized card reader module in registration with the card entry/exit slot and including (i) a throat portion for receiving cards, (ii) a housing portion for containing a card read head, (iii) a shutter arm movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion, and (iv) a sweeping arm movable from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion. The sweeping arm includes a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a sweeping arm including a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of a throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion. Thus, claim 60 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 61 depends from claim 60 and is allowable for the reasons claim 60 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 61 further recites sensor means for (i) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the one side of the card entry/exit slot, and (ii) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the opposite side of the card entry/exit slot. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 61 in combination with the structure recited in claim 60. Thus, claim

09/943,160

61 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 62 recites a method of operating a motorized card reader to remove a non-card obstruction from a throat portion of the reader. The method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion of the card reader to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion of the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion while maintaining the non-card obstruction within the recessed area so that a card can be inserted into the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a method of operating a motorized card reader to remove a non-card obstruction from a throat portion of the reader, wherein the method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion of the card reader to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion of the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion while maintaining the non-card obstruction within the recessed area so that a card can be inserted into the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction. Thus, claim 62 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 63 recites a method of operating a motorized card reader to detect a non-card obstruction in a throat portion of the reader while a card is present in the throat portion of the reader. The method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion, beneath a card protruding through the throat portion, to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side of the throat portion, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion on the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion to allow the protruding card to be transported through the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction.

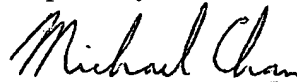
None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a method of operating a motorized card reader to detect a non-card obstruction in a throat

09/943,160

portion of the reader while a card is present in the throat portion of the reader, wherein the method comprises moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion, beneath a card protruding through the throat portion, to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side of the throat portion, catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion on the sweeping arm, and dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion to allow the protruding card to be transported through the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction. Thus, claim 63 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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